

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for the stabilization of cochineal dye in aqueous solutions, such as beverages, and to aqueous solutions of cochineal, which are stabilized against the photo-induced fading of the cochineal dye. The invention also relates to a composition useful in the stabilization of cochineal solutions against fading. The stabilization of the cochineal is provided by an effective stabilizing amount of a transition metal, such as copper, iron or zinc in the solution.